
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA



For Immediate Release
October 25, 2001

Contact: Ernest Baynard
(202) 225-2631

Honda Urges Congress to Pass Strong Aviation Security Bill

Bay Area Legislator Pushes for Stronger Cockpit Doors, Federalization of Security at Airports

Satellite Coordinates for this event (Honda speaks 11th): Telstar 4, Transponder 6 Downlink 3820 Horizontal C-Band, Standard Audio. **The feed will take place from 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Eastern Time**

Washington, D.C.-- U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) today joined with House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt (D-MO), Members of Congress and Mayors from across the nation to urge the House of Representatives to pass a comprehensive federal aviation security bill—a critically important measure that is long overdue. Honda, who serves on the House Aviation Subcommittee, has introduced legislation that could dramatically improve airport security through the use of cutting edge technologies, and strongly supports federalizing security screening at our nation’s airports. Honda also serves as Vice Chair of the Homeland Security Task Force’s Working Group on Domestic Law Enforcement of the Democratic Caucus.

“It has been more than six weeks since the September 11th terror attacks and the House of Representatives has still not produced a comprehensive aviation security bill,” said Honda. **“The House of Representatives should heed the will of the American people and act decisively to secure our nation’s airports with the best technology and the best people for the job— well trained, professional, federal law enforcement personnel.”**

Honda strongly supports putting federal law enforcement agents in airports and on airplanes and has fought to fund stronger cockpit doors on all commercial passenger aircraft. Honda has also recently brought many leading technology companies from his Silicon Valley district to Washington to demonstrate for lawmakers how the latest technologies can dramatically improve aviation security in a short timeframe. Honda also continues to bring business leaders from the high-tech community together with federal, state and local governments to help ensure that cutting-edge technology companies are employed in meeting our new national aviation security needs.

“Common sense dictates that our airports have 21st century law enforcement tools, and the trained personnel to use those tools to keep our families and our transportation infrastructure safe,” continued Honda. **“By placing the best products and personnel in our airports, we can make our skies safe, boost confidence in the airlines, and help our economy.”**

The legislation, introduced by Honda two weeks ago, proposes the development of standards and measurements for biometric and other technologies at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Biometric technology, which is used to identify and authenticate an individual’s identity based on unique physiological data such as fingerprints and retinas, remains one of the most promising new ways to improve security at airports. A variety of biometric systems already exist,

however, standards are needed to ensure their widespread use. The bill also calls for NIST and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform field tests to determine how well such technology would work in airport and airline security.